

CITY OF CORVALLIS
SUSTAINABLE BUDGET TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES
September 14, 2016

The City of Corvallis Sustainable Budget Task Force meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM, September 14, 2016, in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room Corvallis, Oregon, with Vice-Chair Curtis Wright presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Barbara Bull, Karyle Butcher (8:15), Curtis Wright

Excused: Hal Brauner, Mark O'Brien, Joel Hirsch

Staff Present: Nancy Brewer, Patrick Rollens, Mark Shepard

Others: Bill Glassmire, Bob Baird

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Chair Wright noted there was not a quorum of the SBTF, so the conversation would be informational only, with no decisions.

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Approve minutes from August 24, 2016	Since there was no quorum, the minutes were held to the next meeting.

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Strategic Plan Framework and Public Outreach Plan	<p>Finance Director Brewer summarized the staff report and asked the members present if they had questions about the framework or timeline identified in the report.</p> <p>The SBTF members discussed whether or not the City has demonstrated that it is operating as efficiently as possible, and that members of the community indicate the City must not need additional resources if they can fund grants to other entities. Mr. Shepard reminded members that funding decisions reflect priorities, not resource availability.</p> <p>The SBTF members also discussed the role of the new City Council that will be seated in January. The new Council will likely be the group to define funding priorities.</p> <p>The SBTF charge is to develop a revenue source to no longer require the local operating levy; the SBTF has put on the table the need to consider no new revenue and no replacement levy and eliminate services to live within current revenue.</p>

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
	<p>Member Bull stated she would like a conversation focused on the level and quality of services the community wants and then look at the cost to achieve the community's stated preference. Member Butcher stated she thought level and cost had to be discussed together. They agreed the full SBTF should discuss this issue and agree on how to make a recommendation to the City Council for them to set funding priorities.</p> <p>The SBTF also began to discuss the survey process. Vice-Chair Wright stated he thought the SBTF should discuss concepts and information needed to help make a decision but leave it to the survey research firm to draft questions that were not leading, and would be developed in a manner designed to get good responses.</p>

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Community Comments	<p>Bob Baird stated he advocates implementation of a single City/County government structure for Benton County to reduce redundancy and costs. He also stated he supports finding a mechanism to have OSU and Samaritan Health Services pay taxes in support of services they receive. He believes that of the alternatives, the income tax is better since in general the City would know who is doing business in Corvallis. He stated that his store has an outlet in Salem, and if there was a sales tax he may move all his internet business to Salem, and may even encourage shoppers to go to that location. He thought other businesses with multiple locations would likely do the same. He also stated that seeking no additional revenue, where annual growth in expenses is higher than growth in revenue would result in degrading services over time. He is concerned about the messaging surrounding new revenues since many people feel that past campaigns that pegged a revenue source to a set of services made voters feel like the services will be ruined if they vote "no" when he believes the City would not actually cut those services.</p>

The Task Force adjourned at 9:23 AM.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be listened to at:
<http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=1840>